



April 15, 2013

Dear Representative Schmidt,

I am writing to strongly support HB 4258 and 4259 and efforts to increase revenue for transportation infrastructure in Michigan. The Detroit Regional Chamber has over 20,000 members and affiliates in 10 counties employing 750,000 Michigan workers. Our members range from sole proprietors to Fortune 500 companies. Our Board of Directors has affirmed the Chamber's longstanding support of increased transportation funding and has indicated that raising revenue for transportation is one of the Chamber's key public policy priorities for 2013.

I appreciate all of the work that has been done over the course of the past two years. Many of the business community's key priorities have been enacted by the Governor and the Legislature. Key initiatives such as the repeal of the MBT, the stable and structurally balanced budget, reform of the personal property tax, approval of the NITC and creation of a regional transit authority have dramatically improved the business climate in Detroit and throughout the state. However, the Chamber believes there is more progress to be made, starting with improving and maintaining our transportation infrastructure.

We believe that investing in transportation infrastructure will enhance the ability of our members to get their product to market. Moreover, when businesses are deciding whether to expand or relocate, the ability to move product along with a sure and stable supply chain are key factors. While we need increased capacity in several key corridors, our region has significant infrastructure already in place. However, maintaining this infrastructure gets more expensive every day we wait. In fact, it has been estimated that each day Michigan loses \$3 million in asset value of its transportation infrastructure. We concur with estimates that Michigan requires \$1.6 billion annually to maintain our infrastructure. We believe \$1.6 billion should be the minimum annual increased investment. Further, we continue to support Michigan's historic commitment to funding roads through a user based system. We are open to new ideas, but believe that the solution proposed by the Governor last year provides a solid framework from which to work.

In conclusion, we are thankful for all the work the Governor and the Legislature have already completed to re-invent Michigan. We strongly support efforts to continue our momentum and ensuring Michigan's place as a leader in transportation that will allow safe, efficient movement of people and goods. Thank you for your consideration and please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brad Williams".

Brad Williams
Vice President, Government Relations

Cc: Members of the House Transportation Committee

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